



City of Traverse City Park or Public Land Use High Impact Permit

Pursuant to the City of Traverse City Park and Public Land Use Policy, the following parks or public land are hereby permitted to be utilized on:

April 10, 2026 – April 12, 2026

Public Land: **Clinch Marina Lot M**

Event Name: **Michigan Sauna Fest**

Permit Holder: **Michigan Sauna Fest, LLC** (applicant: Nick Olson)

Exclusive use is not granted. However, the City of Traverse City hereby authorizes the use of the above-named Parks and Public Land during the time period indicated above subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. The Applicant shall furnish to the City Clerk's office a certificate of insurance for submit Comprehensive General Liability Certificate in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence along with an endorsement to the policy naming the City of Traverse City as additional insured. If alcohol is being served but not sold, the applicant shall furnish to the City Clerk's Office a Certificate of Insurance for \$1 million host liquor liability, naming the City of Traverse City as additional insured. If alcohol is being sold, the applicant shall furnish to the City Clerk's Office a Certificate of Insurance for \$1 million liquor liability, naming the City of Traverse City as additional insured. The City Clerk may require additional insurance coverage.
2. The Applicant shall be liable for all damages both to property and person and shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, actual attorney fees, and settlement expenses resulting or arising out of or in connection with the performance of the act for which this permit is issued. The obligations to defend indemnify and hold harmless shall exclude only those matters in which the claim arises out of allegations of the sole negligence or act of the City, its officers, agents or employees.

February 15, 2013

Drafted by: Benjamin Marentette

3. The Applicant shall reimburse the City for expenses such as police, fire, streets, parking, and others as agreed upon between the City and the applicant and will be billed accordingly.
4. The application is attached hereto and made a part of this permit. In the event that any term, clause or provision of this Permit conflicts with any term, clause or provision contained in any attachments hereto, this Permit's terms shall prevail.
5. The tent/canopy membrane material shall be non-combustible, flame resistant, or treated in an approved manner in accordance with the State Building Code. On-site inspection will be done by the Fire Marshal; it is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to arrange such inspection at least seven (7) days prior to the event.
6. The Applicant shall comply with all federal, state, county and city rules and regulations; nothing in this permit shall be construed to grant a waiver from any such regulations.
7. The Applicant is responsible for any cleanup following this event and any damage done to City property and will be billed accordingly.
8. If there is any staking done, the Applicant shall contact MISS DIG (1-800-482-7171) and the City's Parks and Recreation Superintendent (231-922-4910, extension 114) at least five (5) days prior to such staking.
9. The rights granted by this permit are revocable at the will of the City of Traverse City, and the Applicant waives any right to claim damages or compensation in the event that this permit is revoked.
10. This permit may not be transferred or assigned.

Attached:

- Application
- Site Plan
- Narrative

Date: April 9, 2026

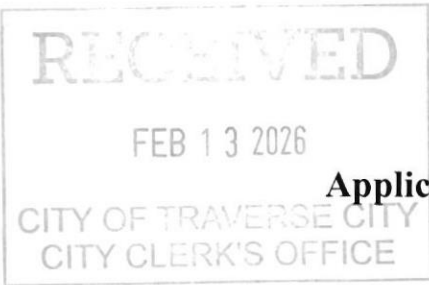
Issued by


Sarah Lutz, City Clerk

February 15, 2013

Drafted by: Benjamin Marentette

2026



City of Traverse City
Application for High Impact Community Events
In Parks and Public Land,
and/or City Streets



(For events in streets that are conducted for a residential purpose or where a street closure is not needed, a Non-Major Street Use Permit Application should be completed instead of this application)

Please submit 90 days prior to event (application must be submitted sooner for reservation requests – see Parks and Public Land Use Policy and Street Use Policy for Community Events).

Title of Event: Michigan Sauna Fest

General Nature of your Event Gathering of saunas from around Michigan

Name of For-Profit Organization, if any: Michigan Sauna Fest, LLC

Name of Non-Profit Organization, if any (a non-profit organization is required for Street Use applications): N/A

Expected Number of Participants: 400

Authorized Representative (Applicant): Nick Olson

Business Address: 635 W. 12th St. Traverse City, MI 49684

Email: michiganSaunaFest@gmail.com Phone Number: 732-789-3005

Authorized Co-Representative (If applicable): Vlad Borza

Business Address: 6918 Old Norwood Rd. Charlevoix, MI 49720

Email: same Phone Number: 586-604-7445

Additional Contact Person(s) during Event (name & phone): N/A

Restrictions regarding the number of High Impact Events allowed in City Parks/Public Land according to City Policy:

- High Impact Events are prohibited in all city parks on Memorial Day and Labor Day and the preceding Friday, Saturday and Sunday and on July 3, July 4 and July 5 of each year.
- Aside from the National Cherry Festival, High Impact Events are prohibited in July in Clinch Park and the Open Space.

For Parks/Public Land (such as parking lots), excluding streets:

Name of Park(s) or Public Land(s) Requested: _____

Lot M Parking Lot (Marina Parking)

Official Date(s) and Time(s) of Event: _____

Friday April 10th 8am To Sunday

April 12th 2:30pm

All Date(s) requested, including set up and tear down: _____

Friday April 10th 8am To

Sunday April 12th 6pm

For Streets:

Street(s) section(s) requested to be closed: _____

Official Date(s) and Time(s) of Event: _____

All Date(s) and Time(s) requested, including set up and tear down: _____

1. Will you be setting up significant infrastructure, such as tents, large structures, stages, or amusements? *If setting up tents or large structures, the structure's material shall be non-combustible, flame resistant or treated in an approved manner in accordance with the Michigan Building Code. If a tent or structure has an area in excess of 200 square feet or a canopy is used that is in excess of 400 square feet, it may not be erected before first obtaining a permit from the Fire Marshal. You must contact the Fire Marshal to obtain information regarding a site plan that meets regulatory requirements as well as to schedule an on-site inspection, at least 7 days before your event.*



Yes - Tent Size(s):

20' x 30'

Other Structures: _____



No

2. Will you be staking or driving anything into the ground such as tents?



As of September 2019, for safety reasons, as a result in the procedures for marking underground utilities, the city prohibits driving anything into the ground within any city park (e.g. staking) until we have identified exactly where all underground utilities are located.



No

3. Do you have any tents or other structures that need to be held down?
 - Yes If yes, recognizing that, as outlined in Question 2, staking in city parks is prohibited, how will you weigh down the tents or other structures (i.e. using sand bags or water weights) Concrete blocks
 - No

4. Are you setting up equipment such as tables, portable toilets, public address systems, chairs, etc.?
 - Yes
 - No

5. Will there be any water events?
 - Yes, *DNR Permits may need to be obtained; please contact the local DNR Office.*
 - No

6. Are you using Flames/Fires/Pyrotechnics?
 - Yes, *additional insurance may be required as well as a hold harmless waiver. Please contact the City Clerk's Office to obtain specific requirements in advance. You shall also contact the Fire Marshal to obtain information regarding regulatory requirements.*
 - No

7. Do you need electricity services?
 - Yes, *some parks do not offer electricity; please confirm with Parks and Recreation. **Open Space electrical panels contact National Cherry Festival at (231) 947-4230*
 - No

8. Will there be any entertainment or amplified music?
 - Yes, *Compliance with the City's Noise Ordinance is required. For questions, please contact the Noise Control Officer.*
 - No

9. Will you be utilizing a generator?
 - Yes, *Contact Bruce Remai at Grand Traverse County Construction Code. 231-995-6047 or bremai@grandtraverse.org.*
 - No

10. Will you need to rent barricades from the City?
 - Yes, indicate quantity: _____, *Please contact the Streets Division Superintendent to rent your barricades. All barricades must be picked up and returned to Streets Division at 625 Woodmere Avenue. **Please indicate placement on the site plan.***
 - No

11. Will you be utilizing signs for your event?
 - Yes, *approval must be provided by Zoning Administrator.*
 - No

12. Will you be selling any merchandise/food/drink on sidewalk?
 - Yes, *a Sidewalk Display of Merchandise Permit is required – contact City Clerk's office*
 - No

13. Will there be any food served, sold, or will there be Mobile Food Vendors?
- Yes, served, NOT sold. *You may need a permit from the Grand Traverse County Environmental Health Department Office.*
 - Yes, sold utilizing a Mobile Food Vendor. *For Mobile Food Vendors a permit is required. *Note: Mobile Food Vendors are not permitted in City Parks or on City property unless the City Park or Property is listed on the Map of City Property where Mobile Food Vending is Generally Allowed. Visit <https://www.traversecitymi.gov/userfiles/filemanager/h6uqfw5sp5uo000mtrvf/> to view this map.*
 - No

14. Will there be alcohol? *Please note that some parks do not allow alcohol and that glass is not permitted on beaches; See attached regulation summary.*
- Yes, served and/or sold.
 - No

Additionally, if the entity that will be serving the alcohol is different from the applicant, please provide the following information:

Contact person's name: _____

Organization name: _____

Organization mailing address: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Insurance Requirements for Alcohol being served or sold:

A Certificate of Liquor Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence, naming the City of Traverse City as additional insured is required. The certificate must list the following as certificate holder: City of Traverse City, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49684.

15. Will you be providing shuttle bus services?
- Yes, *please contact Parking Administration to coordinate services and also describe pick up and drop off points in narrative.*
 - No

16. Is this a free event to the public? **Note: An event is not granted exclusive right to a City Park and shall be open to the general public without charge. A participant fee may be charged – for example, a person may walk through a vendor showcase, but would be charged a fee to participate in activities associated with the vendors.*

- Yes
- No, ***please include an outline of ticketed events and prices in the Narrative.***

17. If charging a fee for activities associated with your event within a park, do you acknowledge that the park cannot be completely closed to the general public?

- Yes
- Not applicable

18. ***For Open Space Only:*** No High Impact Event in the Open Space may use more than two quadrants. Please refer to the attached map *Open Space Quadrant Layout*. Please circle which quadrant(s) your event will be utilizing (maximum of 2): **North South East West**

19. A detailed Narrative which fully describes all activities of your event, including a timeline from set-up to tear-down, is required. Did you attach the required Narrative?
- Yes
 - Not yet, but I understand the requirements
 - I need guidance, please

20. **A site plan is required.** Please attach a site plan depicting the location of all of the following, including any other relevant information:
- (A) Tents;
 - (B) Table and Chairs;
 - (C) Public Address system;
 - (D) Stages;
 - (E) Flames/fires/pyrotechnics;
 - (F) Vending;
 - (G) Barricades;
 - (H) Police;
 - (I) Vehicle/Trailer Parking at event site – **include the purpose of the vehicles/trailers;**
 - (J) Portable Toilets - to the greatest extent possible, they shall be located so that they cannot be seen by outside spectators;

- 21a. Will you be closing any sections of streets?
- Yes
 - No

If yes, you will need to work with the City Clerk's Office to submit a barricade plan that is logistically viable, and deemed acceptable by the Police, Fire, and Streets Departments.

Did you do so?

- Yes, I have verified my barricade plan with the City Clerk's Office
- Not yet, but I know exactly what is required for my plan
- I need guidance, please
- Not applicable

- 21b. Are you closing street(s) within the boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)/Central Business District?
- Yes
 - No

If yes, the city requires that you submit a petition of support; the City Clerk's Office will provide you with a database and instructions on what is required. This requirement does not apply to events which close the street for less than one hour or events conducted/sponsored by the Downtown Traverse City Association.

ALL HIGH IMPACT EVENT HOLDERS – Please read and adhere to the following requirements:

- (a) With the exception of Low Impact Events where nothing is being set up in the park, the Applicant shall furnish to the City a certificate of insurance for Comprehensive General Liability in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence along with a separate page Endorsement to the policy naming the City of Traverse City as Additional Insured. If alcohol is being served or sold, the Applicant shall furnish to the City a certificate of insurance for liquor liability in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence policy, naming the City of Traverse City as additional insured. The City Clerk may require additional insurance coverage.
- (b) The Applicant shall be liable for all damages both to property and person and shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, actual attorney fees, and settlement expenses resulting or arising out

of or in connection with the performance of the act for which this permit is issued. The obligations to defend indemnify and hold harmless shall exclude only those matters in which the claim arises out of allegations of the sole negligence or act of the City, its officers, agents or employees.

- (c) For winter events, the Applicant shall contact the Street Division Superintendent to address removal of snow
- (d) For Street Use Permits, at least two weeks before the event, the Applicant shall notify in writing all affected property owners and occupants along the route of the closure. The notice shall include the name of the event, a description of the event, time period, and the name and telephone number of a contact person.
- (e) The Applicant shall maintain a 20' wide center lane (10' on both sides of the center line) for emergency vehicles.
- (f) The tent/canopy membrane material shall be non-combustible, flame resistant, or treated in an approved manner in accordance with the Michigan Building Code. On-site inspection will be done by the Fire Marshal. The Applicant must contact the Fire Marshal at least 7 days before the event.
- (g) If displaying pyrotechnics, a unique site plan which meets regulatory requirements as well as an on-site inspection by the Fire Marshal is required.
- (h) For Street Use Permits, the Applicant shall provide watchmen and flagmen as may be necessary for the safety and convenience of the public and shall furnish all barricades, signs and lights necessary to protect the public and/or such additional barricades, signs and lights as required per part VI of the current Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD).
- (i) The Applicant shall reimburse the City for expenses such as police, fire, streets, and others as agreed upon between the City and the applicant; the Applicant will be billed accordingly.
- (j) The Applicant is responsible for any cleanup needed following the event and any damage done to City property will be billed accordingly.
- (k) The rights granted by this permit are revocable at the will of the City of Traverse City, and the Applicant waives any right to claim damages or compensation in the event that this permit is revoked.
- (l) If issued, a permit may not be transferred or assigned.
- (m) Unless otherwise waived in writing by the City Clerk, the applicant shall not place anything on the sides of non-motorized pathways that would create less than a 2' clear zone on both sides.

The undersigned, declares and says he/she wishes to be permitted to perform the operation, service or act stated hereon and that the statements made above are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, he/she will comply with all provisions of the ordinances and policies of the City of Traverse City (hereafter "City") relative to the operation, service or act for which the permit is requested, and agrees to hold the City free and harmless from all liability which may be imposed upon it, to reimburse the City for all expenses of litigation in connection with the defense of claims as such liability and claims may arise because of negligence in the performance of the work or act for which the permit was issued.

The undersigned acknowledges that the City may revoke a permit if the city determines information regarding the event was not accurately conveyed to the City on this application document or if the City's ordinances or policies are violated; and by signing, waives any claims of liability, financial or otherwise, against the City should a permit be revoked.

The applicant acknowledges that the City may be required from time to time to release records in its possession. The applicant hereby gives permission to the City to release any records or materials received by the city from the applicant as it may be requested to do so as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Date: 2-11-2026

Authorized Applicant Representative:

Nick Olson
(Please print name)


(Signature)

High Use Permit Application - Clinch Park Michigan Sauna Fest - April 10th - 12th, 2026

Overview: Michigan Sauna Fest is seeking to return to Clinch Park for the second year, to spread the joy, health, and culture of saunas with the general public. Across the United States, sauna culture has become widespread over the past few years, and largely embraced in the public domain. Over a 3 day weekend in April, we will bring public mobile saunas from around Michigan up to Traverse City, so that visitors can experience the beautiful variety of experiences along our waterfront.

Admission: The event will be open to members of the public, and anyone with curiosity can attend portions of the event free of charge. There will be a ticketed area that allows use of the mobile saunas for those that choose to participate in that portion of the event. Standard commercial sauna session rates in Michigan are typically \$35 - \$50 per session; Michigan Sauna Fest will be \$30 per session, to encourage high participation rates and welcome the public into the experience.

Site Plan:

Clinch Park has been chosen over other sites to make access to the event easier for all parties. It has ample space for the saunas to be stationed at the east parking lot and for a social area for the public to connect on the west side parking lot. It has easy access to parking utilizing the tunnel under the Parkway. It allows us to host the event without closing down any roads, or disturbing other public spaces.

Barricade Plan (see site map): Barricades will be used to block off the parking lot(s); we plan to enclose the whole parking lot of Clinch Park, north of the boat ramps with **Meridian Barriers and a Meridian Gate** at the request of Capt. Gray, provided by TCPD. Similar to last year, entrance to this area will be limited via the gate with one of the larger sauna trailers (like 28' Hearth Sauna: see below), in addition for extra protection.

The East side of the parking lot will have approximately 10-15 mobile saunas, with ample space down the middle for the flow of people or emergency vehicles. A communal wood pile (tarpred) will be placed next to the existing boat ramps to be used by all commercial saunas.

The West side of the parking lot will house sauna-related vendors (Michigan is home to many sauna builders, stove companies, and others), enclosed fire pits, a beverage tent for non-alcoholic beverages, and 1 or 2 food trucks. It will also include an event tent similar in format to last year, and will be cleared with Fire Marshal Fritz prior to the event.

Operations: This will be a volunteer run event. The many local Traverse City saunas have strong built-in communities, with many people eager to volunteer. We will have specific teams for: health and safety; water safety; cleanliness and customer service; and general.

Health and Safety teams will be made up of trained professionals, and the festival will have someone on site at all times. Water safety will include a certified life guard during all sessions, for guests looking to cold plunge in the bay (we have submitted for a DNR permit for this).

High Use Permit Application - Clinch Park Michigan Sauna Fest - April 10th - 12th, 2026

Cleanliness crews will wander the site checking in on guests, and maintaining the grounds. General volunteers will check-in guests for the sauna sessions, ensure we have waivers for all participants, and assist elsewhere as needed. Porta-Johns will be provided on site.

Schedule of Events:

Friday - April 10th

8am Sauna Fest organizers and volunteers arrive.

8am - 11am Barricades are set-up to enclose the east parking lot of Clinch Park. This will be the area where the saunas are staged for the remainder of the event. [See site map]

11am - 4pm Commercial mobile sauna trailers from around the State begin to arrive in waves and set-up in their designated areas. Barricades will be moved by volunteers to allow for entry of saunas.

4pm - 7pm Sauna Sessions open for Operators, VIPs, and volunteers.

6pm - 7:30pm Music and socializing

7:30pm - 8pm Close down for the evening. Secure all mobile saunas, tents and firepits.

Saturday - April 11th

7am Sauna hosts arrive to fire up saunas.

8:30am Volunteers & life-guards arrive to be on-hand for all water-related activities.

8:30am Secure all barricaded areas.

9am Event Opens.

9am - 10:30am Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

11am - 12:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

Noon - 12:30pm Lecture: The History and Culture of Sauna. Open to the public.

1pm - 2:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

High Use Permit Application - Clinch Park Michigan Sauna Fest - April 10th - 12th, 2026

2pm - 2:30pm Lecture: The science and benefits of hot and cold therapy. Open to the public.

3pm - 4:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

4pm - 4:30pm Lecture. Topic TBD.

5pm - 6:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

6pm - 7pm Local Northern Michigan musician performs

7pm - 8:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

7pm - 8pm Local Northern Michigan musician performs

8pm - 9pm Close down for the evening. Secure all mobile saunas, tents and firepits.

Sunday - April 12th

7am Sauna hosts arrive to fire up saunas.

8:30am Volunteers & life-guards arrive to be on-hand for all water-related activities.

8:30am Secure all barricaded areas.

9am Event Opens

9am - 10:30am Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

11am - 12:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

1pm - 2:30pm Sauna Session. Guests register for this, and can move between all participating sauna experiences.

3pm - 6pm Saunas cool down and leave. Barricades removed. Clean-up.

2026 Michigan Sauna Fest - Site Map



High Use Permit Application - Clinch Park Michigan Sauna Fest - April 10th - 12th, 2026

Examples of Mobile Sauna Units:



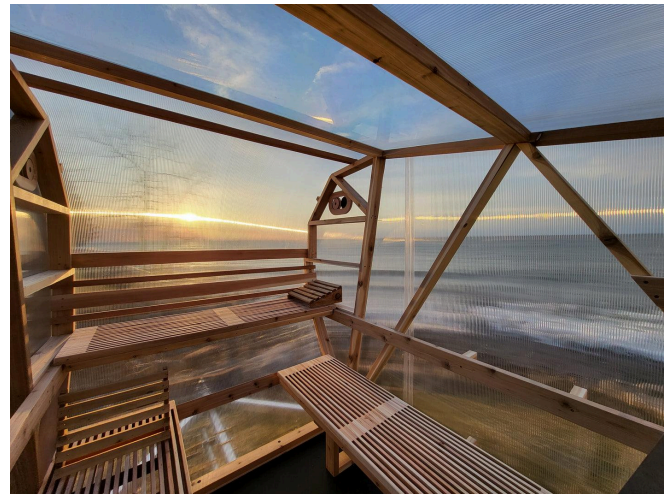
Michigan Mobile Sauna, New Hudson, Mi



Hearth Sauna, Traverse City, Mi



Howl at The Moon Sauna Co, Rockford, Mi



Saunaty LLC, Grand Haven, Mi



Sleeping Bear Saunas, Traverse City, Mi